

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Multifunctional telemark boot (10) comprising a shell (2); a sole (13) which is integral with the shell (2), and which ~~is made up of~~ comprises a heel (4) and a toe (5); and a flexible articulation (7) which is part of the shell (2), and which is arranged substantially in correspondence with the toe (5) in order to permit a flex of the shell (2) ~~itself~~; the telemark boot (10) ~~being characterised by the fact that it comprises~~ stiffening means (11) which are associated with the sole (13) in order to selectively impede the said flex and to configure the telemark boot (10) ~~itself~~ for different uses of telemark.

2. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 1, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said stiffening means (11) comprise a raised sole (13) which is provided with a thickness which is substantially greater than the thickness of a standard sole, and which presents, in plan view, different forms which are adaptable to as many respective blocking devices to be used for different snow sports.

3. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 2, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said stiffening means (11) comprise a compartment (14) which is obtained inside the toe (5), and a ~~number~~ plurality of blades (15) which are arranged inside the compartment (14) ~~itself~~ and which may be orientated from an operating position which is coplanar to the sole (13) to an operating position which is transverse to the sole (13) ~~itself in order to further stiffen the said shell (2).~~

4. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 3, ~~characterised by the fact that~~ wherein the stiffening means (11) comprise an elastic regulating element (18) for the extension of the said blades (15), and an orientation element (17) which is integral with the blades (15) ~~themselves~~ and which can be regulated from outside the raised sole (13).

5. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 2, ~~characterised by the fact that~~ wherein the stiffening means (11) comprise a selectively interchangeable portion (20) of the said raised sole (13) and constraining means (21) which constrain the selectively interchangeable portion (20) ~~itself~~ to the shell (2).

6. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 5, ~~characterised by the fact that~~ wherein the constraining means (21) comprise a shaped pin (32) which is integral with the said selectively interchangeable portion (20) and which may be inserted into a respective housing (34) which is obtained through the toe (5), an elastic stopping element (35) which is arranged substantially inside the housing (34) ~~in order~~ to block the shaped pin (32), a snap hook (33) which is integral with the said selectively interchangeable portion (20) and which may be inserted into the said toe (5) from the side of the insole arch (6), and a blocking element (36) which is associated with the snap hook (33) in order to selectively block the snap hook (33) ~~itself~~ to the said toe (5).

7. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 6, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said constraining means (21) comprise a release element (40) which is arranged inside the said housing (34) in order to act on the elastic stopping element (35) in order to free the said pin (32).

8. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 5, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said selectively interchangeable portion (20) may be associated with either the toe (5) or the heel (4) of the sole (13).

9. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 8, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said constraining means (21) comprise at least one shaped track (52) which extends along a longitudinal axis A of the sole (13), and a respective groove (53) with a shape which is complementary to the shape of the shaped track (52) and which is obtained in the said selectively interchangeable portion (20); the selectively interchangeable portion (20) presenting, in turn, a blocking wall (54) which is arranged transverse to the longitudinal axis A.

10. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 9, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said track (52) presents a T shape in a transverse section.

11. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 8, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said constraining means (21) comprise at least one shaped track (72) which extends along a transverse axis B of the sole (13), and a respective groove (73) with a shape which is complementary to the shape of the shaped track (72) and which is obtained in the said selectively interchangeable portion (20).

12. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 9, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said constraining means (21) comprise a pair of shaped fasteners (74) which may be associated with the said track (72) in order to block any reciprocal sliding between the track (72) and the groove (73).

13. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 8, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said constraining means (21) comprise at least one pin with a shaped head (102)(112) arranged transverse to the said selectively interchangeable portion (20), and a respective housing with a shaped base (103)(113) which is obtained in the shell (2).

14. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 13, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said constraining means (21) comprise three pins with shaped heads (102) which are arranged transverse to the said selectively interchangeable portion (20), and a housing (103) and a groove with a shaped base (104) which are obtained in the shell (2).

15. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 8, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said constraining means comprise two hinges (122) for coupling the selectively interchangeable portion (20) to the shell (2); each hinge (122) being defined by at least one notch (123), by a respective projection (124) which may be inserted into the relative notch (123), and by a respective shaft (125) which may be inserted through the notch (123) and the projection (124) in order to constrain the notch (123) and the projection (124) in relation to each other.

16. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to ~~any of the preceding Claims from 5bis to 15,~~ Claim 5, wherein the heel (4) is frontally delimited by a substantially flat surface (4a), which faces the insole arch (6), and which is inclined at an angle which is substantially less than 70° in relation to a support plane surface of the telemark boot (10) ~~itself~~.

17. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to ~~any of the preceding Claims,~~ Claim 1, wherein said toe (5) presents an external layer

(13a) made of rubber material and an internal layer (13b) made of plastic material, and comprises an anchoring lip (131) ~~in order~~ to permit an improved anchoring of the external layer (13a) to the internal layer (13b) and/or the anchoring of external accessories to the shell (2).

18. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 17, ~~characterised by the fact that the~~ wherein said lip (131) is integral with ~~the~~ the internal layer (13b) ~~in order~~ to be inserted into a window (132) which is obtained through the external layer (13a), and comprising an anterior prismatic portion (133) and a posterior prismatic portion (134) which together define an anchoring compartment (135).

19. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to ~~any of the preceding Claims,~~ ~~characterised by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the articulation (7) comprises a bellows (141) which is arranged on an upper part of the shell (2), the stiffening device (11) also comprising a regulating lever (142) for regulating the size of the bellows (141) ~~themselves~~, and at least one stay rod (145) for connecting the lever (142) ~~itself~~ to the said sole (13).

20. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 19, ~~characterised by the fact that~~ wherein the stiffening device (11) comprises a shock absorber pin (143) which is integral with the shell (2), and which defines a fixed transmission for ~~the~~ said stay rod (145).

21. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 5, ~~characterised by the fact that~~ wherein the sole (13) comprises an insole arch (6) for separating the heel (4) from the toe (5).

22. (Currently Amended) Telemark boot according to Claim 18, ~~characterised by the fact~~
~~that~~ wherein the posterior prismatic portion (134) is substantially wedge shaped, and
tapers towards the anterior prismatic portion (133).